

**REMARKS**

By the present Preliminary Amendment, all multiple dependency has been eliminated and new dependent claims 10-18 have been added so that the scope of the original multiple dependent claims has been preserved. It is to be understood that the revisions to the claims are solely for formalistic purposes and not with regard to patentability.

Entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment and favorable consideration on the merits are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated March 15, 2000**

**Marked-up Claims 7 and 8**

7. (Amended) A method to render resistance to an environmental stress to a plant, the method comprising incorporation of the gene according to [either one of claim 3 to] claim 6 into said plant.

8. (Amended) A transgenic plant exhibiting resistance to an environmental stress, produced by incorporation of the gene according to [either one of claim 3 to] claim 6 into a plant.